

*er*, That if aid be given to the Greenville and French Broad Company, to construct the branches down the French Broad, that the company be allowed to extend the five feet guage as far south as at or near Ashville, so as to cause the break of guage and transhipment at that place, instead of at the Paint Rock; and that the said company, as a condition, before which State aid is to be given, shall first surrender the portion of their charter obtained at last session, from Ashville to the South-Carolina line, which, in the opinion of the committee, is of vast importance to the State, in securing to North-Carolina the key to the valley of the Mississippi referred to in the message of his Excellency, David L. Swain.

Important results would be produced by the completion of the extension on the plan recommended:

1. It would bring the east and west together and make them act together as one people.

2. By increasing the value of property in the west it would equalize taxation and settle permanently the basis of representation by equalizing representation in the Senate.

3. In times of peace it would aid commerce, regulate exchanges, benefit the financial and agricultural, mining and manufacturing interests. And in times of foreign war operate as a Chinese wall on our eastern frontier, and in case of insurrection, as all the southern States would be connected together by railroads, enable the south to defend successfully any and all exposed points on the seaboard in consequence of the facilities furnished for communicating intelligence from one section to the other, as well as the rapid transportation of troops and munitions of war by intercommunications through the entire extent of the slaveholding States. A few minutes would be sufficient for the transportation of intelligence, and a few hours would be sufficient to transport half a million of men to any exposed point.

Respectfully submitted,

WM. H. THOMAS.